



Harman.6469  
10/012,200

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Becker et al. GROUP: 2612  
SERIAL NO: 10/012,200 EXAMINER: B. Swarthout  
FILED: November 13, 2001  
FOR: A MULTIMEDIA UNIT HAVING MULTIPLE  
TRANSCEIVERS FOR USE IN A VEHICLE

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**REPLY BRIEF**

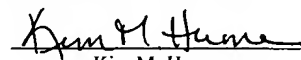
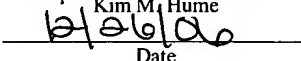
This Reply Brief is in response to the Examiner's Answer dated October 25, 2006. This Reply Brief is being submitted to address a new contention in the Examiner's Answer.

Entry of this Reply Brief is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's Answer states "...Murakami clearly set forth that each node can comprise at least one multimedia device or functional unit (col. 7, lines 20-27, Murakami clearly setting forth that each node has at least one transmitter/receiver pair 11/29 (Fig. 2)." (Examiner's Answer, pg. 4). This contention in the Examiner's Answer regarding the alleged teaching of Murakami is not supported by a fair and proper reading of Murakami. Specifically, although Murakami does teach that a node N may include more than one functional unit, this

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I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date below, with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Kim M. Hume  
  
Date

statement can not be read as teaching that each functional unit has its own transmitter/receiver pair 11/29. The Examiner's Answer improperly attempts to span the expansion gap in the teachings of Murakami with respect to the claimed invention by making the naked, unsupported allegation that each functional unit has its own transmitter/receiver pair 11/29. However, noticeably missing from the Examiner's Answer is a cite to a location(s) in Murakami that provides the teaching, suggestion or motivation to support this contention. The Examiner's Answer uses the unsupported allegation to contend that the node N then contains at least two transmitter/receiver pairs 11/29. Murakami's teaching that (i) each node may have multiple functional units and (ii) each node contains a transmitter/receiver pair 11/29 as shown in FIG. 2, does not provide a teaching that a functional unit contains at least two transmitter/receiver pairs 11/29.

Claim 11 recites that "*at least one of said multimedia units comprises a plurality [of] [] transceiver units and a network controller*". In contrast Murakami simply teaches that each node includes a transmitter/receiver pair 11/29 and each node can include more than one functional unit. Murakami neither discloses nor suggests that each functional unit includes a transmitter/receiver pair 11/29. Similarly, claim 13 recites that "*at least one of said multimedia units comprises a plurality [of] [] transceiver units and a network controller.*" Claim 1 recites that "*said multimedia unit comprising a plurality a transceiver units*". It is respectfully submitted that a fair and proper reading of Murakami fails to disclose or suggest such a feature, and thus Murakami is incapable of rendering the claimed invention obvious.

For all the foregoing reasons, we submit that the rejection of claim 1-14 is erroneous and reversal thereof is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this appeal brief, please charge them to our Deposit Account 50-3381. If a fee is required for any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should be charged to the above Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick O'Shea". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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